

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

The claims have been amended for clarity, to correct antecedent basis issues and to place them in compliance with U.S. practice.

Claims 1-6 stand rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Marks (US 6,343,442) in view of Arbeitlang et al. (US 3,510,086). Claims 8-10 stand rejected, under 35 USC §103(a), as being unpatentable over Marks and Arbeitlang in view of Baghdasarian (US 5,785,208).

The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following points.

The Office Action takes the apparent position that replacing rigid sections 64 and foldable sections 63 of Marks' boom with flexible members 3 of Arbeitlang's outrigger provides an inflatable mattress as recited in claim 1.

The Applicants respectfully submit that this position is completely unfounded.

Combining the features of these two references provides an inflatable frame having two longitudinal parallel stringers having sections hinged transversely and necessitating flat rigid

panels (element 20 in Arbeitlang and element 64 in Marks) between the stringers.

Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that the applied references, considered alone or together, do not teach or suggest the subject matter defined by claim 1. Therefore, allowance of claim 1 and all claims dependent therefrom is warranted.

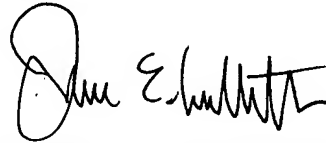
The Office Action does not provide any discussion at all supporting a rejection of claim 7. Therefore, allowance of claim 7 is warranted for this independent reason.

Regarding claims 8-10, the office action cites Baghdassian for a disclosure of folding in rows and columns. However, Baghdassian does not cure the above-discussed deficiencies of Marks and Arbeitlang with respect to claim 1 from which claims 8-10 indirectly depend. Furthermore, the combination of Marks and Arbeitlang cannot provide longitudinal hinge lines similar to hinge lines 86 and 88 of Baghdassian. In fact, the longitudinal stringers of Marks have only transverse hinge lines and no longitudinal hinge lines are possible in Marks and Arbeitlang.

In view of the above, it is submitted that all pending claims are directed to allowable subject matter, and that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James E. Ledbetter". The signature is stylized with a large initial "J" and a cursive "E".

James E. Ledbetter
Registration No. 28,732

Date: July 20, 2005
JEL/DWW/att

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